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International Court of Justice

H3207 - 0002

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 22 July 1948

I certify that Document Number EC-436 was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number USA-620 in the Trial by the International Military Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

H3207 - 0003

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document EC-436 No. USA-620 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the United States Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Nuremberg, 6 July 1948

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

EC-436

Original to Geyer

DEPOSITION

2 November 1945

I, Emil Puhl, was a Director of the Reichsbank during the entire period of Dr. Schacht's Presidency of the Reichsbank in the years 1933 to 1939.

In the early part of 1935 the need for financing an accelerated rearmament program arose. Dr. Schacht, President of the Reichsbank, after considering various techniques of financing, proposed the use of "mefo" bills to provide a substantial portion of the funds needed for the rearmament program. This method had as one of its primary advantages the fact that secrecy would be possible during the first years of the rearmament program and figures indicating the extent of rearmament that would have become public through the use of other methods could be kept secret through the use of "mefo" bills.

"Mefo" bills, abbreviation for "mefo-wechsel", were drawn by the armament contractor and accepted by the Metallurgische Forschungsgesellschaft m.b.H. These bills ran for six months with extensions running for three months each consecutively. The total life of these bills varied and in some instances exceeded four years. The Reichsbank could discount the original bill any time within its last three months. The co-endorser and drawer did not have to accept any liability. (This provision results from a guarantee of the bill by the Reich.)

These "mefo" bills were used exclusively for financing rearmament, and when in March 1938, a new finance program discontinuing the use of "mefo" bills was announced by Dr. Schacht, there was a total volume outstanding of twelve billion marks of "mefo" bills which had been issued to finance rearmament. One of the primary reasons for discontinuing financing rearmament with "mefo" bills was that by the spring of 1938 it was no longer considered necessary to keep secret the progress of German rearmament. The rearmament boom had reached such proportions by the spring of 1938 that it became possible to raise sums by taxation and by the sale of government securities which could never have been raised when the armament program acceleration began in 1935.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NUREMBERG, GERMANY
USA Exhibit 620
Filed Jan 10, 1946

H3207 – 0004

EC-436
2

I hereby swear that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of the facts.

Emil Puhl

EMIL PUHL

Foster Adams

Witness

Merle K. Breniger

Witness

H3207 - 0005

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EC-436
USA-620

H3207 - 0006

PUHL DEPOSITION
DOCUMENT No. EC-436
OFFICE OF U S CHIEF OF COUNSEL

DEPOSITION

2 November 1945

I, Emil Puhl, was a Director of the Reichsbank during the entire period of Dr. Schacht's Presidency of the Reichsbank in the years 1933 to 1939.

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I hereby swear that the foregoing is a true and correct statement for the facts.

EMIL PUHL

Witness: FORSTER ADAMS

Witness: MERLE K. BRENIZER

H-3207

EXHIBIT USA 620 (EC-436)

EXHIBIT USA

620

(EC-436)

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